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RESULTS OF USSR SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS

UNIQUE FINDS IN HISTORICAL RESERVATION -- Yerevan, Kommunist, 23 Aug 52

A joint archeological expedition of the academies of sciences Ukrainian SSR and USSR is working in the Ol'viya State Historical Reservation of the Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR. The reservation is located in the village of Parutino in Ochakovskiy Rayon.

The expedition has completed its second month of excavations. It has unearthed clay vessels and other objects which testify to the existence of an early Slavic settlement in Ol'viya.

The archeologists have also discovered a unique monument of the fourth century, a forge and hearth in a small chamber. They have also opened up several stone houses which indicate a high level of construction technique and architectural design.

ARTISTIC TREASURES IN URARTU FORTRESSES -- Kommunist, 27 Aug 52

The archeological expedition of the Institute of History, Academy of Science Armenian SSR, led by B. Piotrovskiy, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences Armenian SSR, has completed excavation of the ancient Urartu fortress of Karmir Blur.

Excavations in 1952 produced a wealth of material. Workers found bronze shields, quivers, and horse harnesses bearing inscriptions concerning Urartu kings. The bridle and other bronze harness parts with inscriptions about King Menua, first of the Urartu kings to penetrate the Transcaucasus, were especially interesting.

The armor found, which up to now had been known only through ancient Assyrian pictures, is of significant artistic value. Each of the plates is decorated with embossed rosettes. The armor bears cuneiform inscriptions about Argishti, another Urartu king.

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This year, excavation of the ancient Urartu fortress of Yerebuni on Arin-Berd Hill near Yerevan was also begun. The excavations were conducted by workers of the Museum of Graphic Arts imeni Pushkin in Moscow.

Members of the expedition have excavated one of the buildings in the central part of the hill; the contour of the building has appeared and walls of clay brick have been revealed. A drain made out of stone and covered with well-preserved timbers was especially interesting.

SEEK NEW FISH RESOURCES IN THE CASPIAN -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 15 Aug 52

A joint expedition of the Azerbaydzhan branch of VNIRO (All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Deep Sea Fishing and Oceanography) sailed from the port of Baku on 14 August.

N. I. Chugunov, Candidate of Biological Sciences and chief of the exploratory voyage, gave the following information concerning the expedition to a Bakinskiy Rabochiy correspondent:

This is the largest joint expedition in recent years. Its staff consists of hydrologists, hydrochemists, hydrobiologists, acoustical engineers, and microbiologists; these scientists are headed by Professor A. E. Kriss of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

For a period of 25 days, the expedition will explore the middle and southern Caspian Sea in the sections between Makhachkala and Mangyshlak and between Kurinskiy Kamen' and Ogurchinskiy Island. Its task is to discover sprat resources of industrial importance and to study the hydrological and hydrochemical systems of these areas.

In localities where fishing is already of commercial importance, Professor Kriss is studying methods of locating schools of fish on the basis of microorganism counts of water samples.

The expedition is supplied with all necessary equipment. It will use, for the first time in the Caspian, special equipment which determines the exact location of schools of fish. Its use will enable fishing fleets to search large areas of the sea in a short time. The expedition will also use new-type conical nets with underwater electric lights.

With the aid of special silk anchor nets, gray mullet and sprat roe will be snared. On the basis of this operation, the location and intensity of fish spawning can be determined.

MONUMENTS IN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AREAS -- Moscow, Moskovskaya Pravda, 2 Jul 52

A scientific expedition of the History of Material Culture Institute left Moscow recently for the region where the Kuybyshev Hydroelectric Station is under construction. It is reported that scientific workers have already begun investigation of archeological monuments in the zone that is to be flooded. In 1951, relics of the stone age, paleolithic and neolithic periods, bronze age, and middle ages were found there.

One of the detachments, headed by A. E. Alikhoboy, Candidate of Historical Sciences, discovered a bronze age settlement, where a large number of copper and bronze instruments, weapons, household utensils, and ceramic articles were found.

The Stalingrad Archeological Expedition is investigating an early paleolithic nomadic settlement in the environs of Stalingrad. It is the second such settlement

found in the Volga region. The stone implements found there are extremely interesting. Study of archeological monuments along the route of the Volga-Ural Canal and on the east bank of the Volga in the Stalingrad Reservoir region has begun.

In the Kakhovka GES region, scientific workers of the institute are exploring the site of Kamenskoye, an ancient city that dates back to the 4th and 5th centuries. At present, the archeologists are exploring the Scythian burial mounds, not far from the present city of Kamenka.

One of the largest archeological expeditions, headed by Professor A. B. Artsikhovskiy, Doctor of Historical Sciences, has left for Novgorod. In 1951, its work was crowned with the finding of ancient Slavic monuments and birch bark writings dating back to the period between the 11th and 15th centuries. The expedition is now continuing exploration of ancient Novgorod.

In comparison with past years, technical equipment of the expeditions has increased considerably. Many machines such as conveyers, winches, skip hoists, etc., are being used in the excavations.

EFFECTS OF IRRIGATION AND SHELTER BELTS ON DESERT CLIMATE -- Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya, 12 Aug 52

A joint expedition of the Hydrometeorological Service USSR has just returned to Tashkent after a month's stay in the Golodnaya Steppe region, where it studied questions connected with the transformation of climate in desert regions. A. A. Laykhtman, Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences and head of the expedition, gave a Tass correspondent the following information about the expedition:

The expedition organized a wide and complex study of the influence or irrigation and shelter belts on the climate of desert and semidesert regions. A total of 120 scientific workers took part in the expedition; they included members of the Geographical Observatory of the Leningrad Hydrometeorological Institute, members of the Academy of Sciences Uzbek SSR, and students from Moscow, Leningrad, and the Central Asian republics. The expedition was outfitted with the latest technical equipment. Investigations were conducted simultaneously on the ground and in the air.

Observations proved that canals and shelter belts significantly modified desert climate. In Pakhta Ural Sovkhoz, for example, where there is a large irrigated area and many shelter belts, ground temperatures proved to be 20 degrees lower than in a desert region 30 kilometers distant. These lower temperatures are similar to those prevailing in oases, where a considerable part of the heat is used up in evaporating moisture rather than in heating the soil, as is the case in deserts. Humidity of the air in oases is 40-50 percent higher than in desert regions. In the sovkhoz, significant changes in climate were found to have taken place not only near the ground but also at a height of 300 meters.

The material collected by the expedition shows the regularity of climatic changes in desert regions as a result of irrigation and creation of shelter belts.

ALTAY KRAY UNDER STUDY -- Moscow, Pravda, 11 Aug 52

At present, many scientific expeditions are studying the problem of better utilization of the great natural resources of Altay Kray.

A scientific expedition of the Western Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR is studying the possibility of increased forest planting and creation of large reservoirs in Altay Kray. Experts of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Forestry are studying a plan for establishment of large tree nurseries to supply state shelter belts.

Another expedition is studying the meadows and pastures of the mountainous portion of Altay.

Since there are many spawning grounds for sturgeon, white salmon, and other valuable fish in the upper reaches of the Ob' River, an expedition of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Lake and River Fishing and Tomsk State University has arrived in that area to study problems connected with introduction of fishing in the Ob' basin. Ichthyologists and hydrobiologists, in cooperation with kolkhoz workers, are studying fish resources and the possibility of further develc_ment of fishing in Siberia.

BETTER SQUIRRELS IN ALTAY -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 8 Jul 52

North of Lake Zaysan stretch the Kalbinskiy Altay Mountains, which have long been famous for their rich resources of fur-bearing animals. Squirrels are especially abundant there.

Recently, a species of tree squirrel (Sciurus vulgaris exalbidus Pall.) from Semipalatinsk Oblast was introduced in the Kalbinskiy Altay Mountains. It is considerably larger than the Altay species and has a rich fur coat. Scientific workers have decided to improve the Altay species by crossing it with the imported species. An expeditionary detachment, headed by scientific worker Samusev, is fulfilling this task. The detachment is on location in the Kalbinskiy Altay Mountains and is also conducting a careful investigation of all other valuable fur-bearing animals.

TEST HOMES FOR CANAL BUILDERS -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 9 Jul 52

An expedition of the Institute of Public Hygiene, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, has left for the Kara-Kum Desert with models of collapsible, three-room houses intended for future builders of the Main Turkmen Canal. They will test these models under desert conditions to determine how much protection they give against heat, what room arrangements are most healthful and hygienic, and what interior design is most suitable.

Scientific results of this expedition will serve as the basis for mass construction of housing along the route of the Main Turkmen Canal.

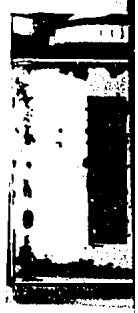
SEEK OBSERVATORY SITE -- Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 24 Aug 52

A scientific expedition of the Astrobotanical Section, Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR, has left from Alma-Ata. G. A. Tikhov, active member of the Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR, is on the staff of the expedition.

The scientists will conduct astrobotanical investigations in the area around Issyk-Kul' Lake and in southern Kazakhstan. They will also select the site for large planetary observatory.

EXPLORE VAST, NEW REGION -- Moskovskaya Pravda, 4 Jul 52

An expedition of the Academy of Sciences Turkmen SSR is working in the southwestern portion of the republic to establish the soil characteristics of the land to be irrigated by the Main Turkmen Canal. In a short period, the members of the soil section of the expedition explored more than 100,000 hectares of land in the Archman region. Significant work was also done by the section in studying the physical composition of soils.



In the course of 2 years, the expedition has the task of exploring a huge territory and selecting 500,000 hectares of land in the southwestern portion of Turkmen SSR most suitable for utilization.

At the end of 1953, the expedition will prepare a soil chart and finish compilation of a report which will present the soil characteristics of the area, together with possible improvement measures.

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